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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

News Releases-

Release No. 0434.93
Robert Feist (202) 720-6789
Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

CCC INTEREST RATE FOR JUNE 3-1/4 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, June 1--Commodity loans disbursed in June by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 3-1/4 percent interest rate, according to Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of the CCC.

The 3-1/4 percent interest rate is unchanged from May's 3-1/4 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in June.



Release No. 0436.93
Jim Tippet (916) 551-1533

SPECIAL REPORTS ON CALIFORNIA PROCESSING TOMATOES AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON, June 1--The California office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service plans to issue the following two special reports for the 1993 processing tomato crop:

-- A June 1, 1993, report will show California planted area and production (contracted only), and planted acreage by county.

-- A Sept. 1, 1993, report will show California harvested area and production (contracted only); however, it will not include information on county acreage or production.

These reports will be issued by the California Agricultural Statistics Service, and the information they contain will be included in the July 16 and Sept. 17 issues of the Vegetables reports of the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Washington, D.C.



Release No. 0438.93
Steve Lombardi (202) 720-9113
Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623

DES MOINES PUBLIC HEARING TO ADDRESS FUTURE OF MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, June 2--Several top U.S. Department of Agriculture officials will participate in a public hearing on Friday, June 4, in Des Moines, Iowa, on plans to modernize the federal meat and poultry inspection program.

"The hearing will give the people of Iowa and the surrounding states an opportunity to attend and to participate in this project of immense scope and importance to the health and welfare of the nation," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, who directed the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to prepare plans for reducing pathogens as a response to this winter's outbreak of foodborne illness in several western states.

USDA's Dr. Jill Hollingsworth, Assistant to the FSIS Administrator, and Dr. Al Strating, director of APHIS' Laboratory and Epidemiology Services, will take part in the proceedings in Des Moines.

Several members of Congress are expected to attend, including Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa.

Des Moines is the location of FSIS' North Central Regional Office. That office oversees 1,254 federally inspected plants and supervises 1,323 federal meat inspection personnel in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The Des Moines hearing is the third in a series of six such events planned throughout the country to seek public input on the proposed two-track strategic plan for inspection reform. The first two meetings were held in Dallas, Tex., and Seattle, Wash.; upcoming hearings will take place in Oakland, Calif; Atlanta; and Philadelphia.

"We strongly encourage interested individuals and groups to give us feedback on our efforts to modernize and reform the federal meat and poultry inspection system. The comments and suggestions from the hearings will be crucial to the agency as we move forward with our inspection reform efforts," Espy said. "We are seeking as much participation as possible from those representing a wide spectrum of views."

Track I of the FSIS two-track inspection reform plan consists of an immediate program to maximize the performance of the current meat and poultry inspection system. The cornerstone of Track I is a program to reduce pathogens, Espy said.

Track II consists of the development of a regulatory program for the future.

Requests to testify at the Des Moines hearing should be submitted to Kathy Martin, at (515) 284-6300. The hearing will be held from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Savery Hotel and Spa, 401 Locust Street, in Des Moines.

Copies of the agency's strategic plan and the USDA pathogen reduction program are available by contacting the FSIS Public Awareness Office, Room 1165 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 690-0351.



Release No. 0439.93

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

U.S. TO DONATE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TO RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, June 3--The United States will donate 5,090 metric tons of U.S. agricultural commodities for distribution to needy citizens in the Russian Federation, said Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Commodities include 680 metric tons each of dry beans, vegetable oil and nonfat dry milk; 590 tons each of wheat flour and lentils; 510 tons of infant formula; 340 tons each of whole dry milk, baby food and baby cereal; and 170 tons each of rice and butteroil.

The total value of the donation is about \$10 million, including \$7 million worth of commodities and \$3 million in freight costs.

The Fund For Democracy and Development, a private U.S. voluntary organization, in collaboration with the Russian Salvation Army, will distribute the donated commodities free of charge to social service institutions such as soup kitchens, hospitals, orphanages, schools, and homes for the elderly and the handicapped in Moscow and surrounding areas.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 and the Food for Progress program. The programs are administered by FAS.

The supply period of the donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.



Release No. 0442.93
Brad Fisher (202) 720-4024
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

WESTERN U.S. EXPECTS AVERAGE STREAMFLOWS, SNOWPACKS

WASHINGTON, June 4--Last month's precipitation will bring near-to well-above average streamflows and snowpacks to most of the West, reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

"April precipitation in the Western states was near-to well-above average in the north and near-average in most of the south," said acting SCS chief Galen Bridge. Reservoir storage is generally improving, but is still below average in most states.

Residents of Western states depend on snowmelt for about 75 percent of their water supply. SCS and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service jointly analyze snowpack and precipitation data and forecast seasonal runoff.

Here is the state-by-state outlook:

ALASKA--Mountain snowpacks are well-above average. There is a high potential for flooding from snowmelt northeast of Fairbanks and in the southern Brooks Range. Clear and unseasonably warm weather, combined with overnight freezing, eliminated low-elevation snow and river ice.

CALIFORNIA--April precipitation ranged from well-above average in northern California to zero in the state's southern third. Above-average temperatures dramatically increased snowmelt from the Sierra snowpack. Storage in most reservoirs is above-average; many reservoirs are nearly 80 to 90 percent of capacity.

COLORADO--Snowpacks remain well-above average. Snowmelt has not begun in the higher elevations. Streamflow forecasts call for above-average to well-above average runoff for this spring and summer. Water users can expect streamflows to be much higher than a year ago.

IDAHO--April precipitation was heavy in the central and southern mountains; some SCS snow telemetry (SNOTEL) stations reported more than twice the normal levels. Snowpacks in the high elevations continue to increase. Reservoir storage in the south continues to improve; some basins are currently under flood control operations. Conditions in the north are not as promising. Streamflow volumes are expected to be below normal.

MONTANA--April storms throughout most of the state helped water supplies in the central, southwestern, and southcentral regions. The upper half of northwestern and northcentral Montana will need above- to well-above average precipitation during May and June to ensure adequate surface water supplies.

NEVADA--Water supply conditions are good. Heavy winter storms carried most of the basins through a relatively dry spring. Snowpack and water-year precipitation continue to be good in most basins. Streamflows are expected to be average to above average for most basins. Reservoir storage has improved, but continues to remain well-below average; the state's seven major reservoirs are at only 20 percent of their capacity.

NEW MEXICO--Streamflow forecasts call for above-average to much-above-average runoff. Snowpack conditions across northern New Mexico are near to much-above average. The water supply outlook for snowmelt runoff for spring and early summer should be good. Dry, windy conditions during April brought losses in snowpack. Flooding may occur along streams with headwaters above 10,000 feet in elevation.

OREGON--Above-average surface water supplies will be available throughout the spring and summer. Mountain snowpack increased measuring up to 187 percent of average in some areas. Streamflow forecasts are the highest they have been in several years, measuring up to 165 percent of average. Precipitation for most of the state is more than 110 percent of average. Reservoir storage is currently 97 percent of average throughout the state.

UTAH--In the south, warm and dry weather in the middle elevations is allowing snowmelt to proceed without causing significant flooding. Snowpacks are much-above normal; some potential for snowmelt flooding exists. In the north, snowpacks have increased significantly; most areas have above-average snowpacks. On the Bear River Basin, where there have been poor water supply conditions, snowpacks now measure above average.

WASHINGTON--Statewide, precipitation was 166 percent of normal. Forecasts for 1993 runoff vary from 61 percent of average for the Similkameen River to 100 percent for the Walla Walla River. SNOTEL sites averaged 87 percent of normal snowpack. April streamflows varied from 54 percent of normal on the Okanogan River to 164 of normal on the Lewis River. Irrigation reservoir storage is poor throughout the state.

WYOMING--Precipitation for the month was average to above average. In the south, average to above-average streamflows are expected; elsewhere, flows will be as much as 15 percent below average. Snowmelts in the south are much-above average, while slightly below average in the rest of the state. Reservoir storage ranges from slightly above average to much-below average.

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Release No. 0443.93
Brian Norris (301) 504-6778
Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

NEW TECHNOLOGIES HELP THE U.S. HARDWOOD INDUSTRY STAY COMPETITIVE

WASHINGTON, June 4--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has completed a two-year project to identify and transfer new technology to aid the \$3.5 billion U.S. hardwood industry.

USDA's National Agricultural Library has produced a series of reports to help the U.S. hardwood industry deal with some of the most perplexing problems associated with harvesting and milling hardwood.

The four reports, produced by NAL's Technology Transfer Information Center (TTIC), offer procedures for detecting "wetwood" in trees, logs and boards; finding alternatives to petroleum-based biocides to protect hardwood lumber and manufactured products; detecting external and internal defects to improve the milling of hardwood logs and lumber; and new cutting technologies for processing logs, boards and other value-added wood products.

Assisting TTIC in the preparation of the reports were USDA's Extension Service, The National Institute of Standards and Technology of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the University of Maine and the Hardwood Research Council.

"The U.S. hardwood industry is an important part of the U.S. economy," said Kate Hayes, TTIC coordinator. "Hardwood lumber produced in 1990 was valued at more than \$3.5 billion. The industry employs more than 700,000 workers, and sales of all hardwood products reach around \$65 billion annually.

TTIC is one of eleven specialized information centers established by the National Agricultural Library to keep abreast of information on critical issues facing U.S. agriculture. Other centers cover agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural information, youth development, and water quality.

NAL is the largest agricultural library in the world with a collection of over 2.2 million volumes. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Copies of the reports are available from the National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore, Blvd., Beltsville, Md. 20705-2351 or call NAL's Technology Transfer Information Center at (301) 504-5204.

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Release No. 0444.93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

U.S. AND RUSSIA SIGN FOOD FOR PROGRESS AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, June 4--In a ceremony here today, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and Alexander Zaveryukha, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, signed the first two of several agreements under which the United States will provide \$700 million in agricultural assistance to Russia.

The remaining agreements will be ready for signing during the visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin next week.

"I am pleased to sign this agreement between the people of the United States and the people of the Russian Federation," Espy said. "It shows our nation's commitment to the Russian people as they continue their struggle to restructure their economy. It also shows this Administration's commitment to help U.S. farmers and agribusiness maintain the U.S. position in this highly important foreign market."

The aid is being provided under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Progress Program. Of the \$700 million, commodities will total \$500 million and transportation will account for the remaining \$200 million. The commodity portion includes \$433.5 million in USDA credits and \$66.5 million in donations.

The commodity breakdown is as follows: \$227.5 million for corn, \$105.0 million for soybean meal, \$66.5 million for butter (of which \$54.5 million consists of donations), \$56.0 million for wheat (of which \$12 million consists of donations), \$18.0 million for refined soybean oil, \$8.0 million for peanuts, \$7.0 million for poultry, \$7.0 million for rice and \$5.0 million for sugar. The soybean oil, peanuts, poultry and rice constitute the \$40.0 million allocation for high-value products announced previously.

Sales under the credits will carry a term of 15 years, including a 7-year grace period. The interest rate will be 3 percent during the grace period and 4 percent thereafter.

In accordance with cargo preference requirements, Espy said 75 percent of the commodities will be shipped on U.S. flag vessels. Russia will pay up front the foreign-flag equivalent freight rate for all commodities except the donated butter. The United States will pay all remaining freight costs, which include the ocean freight differential for using U.S. vessels and all the freight costs for the donated butter, Espy said.

"Russia has agreed to take steps to facilitate the rapid unloading of commodities in Russian ports," Espy said. "In addition, today's agreement establishes a consultation process that will be used to quickly resolve any shipping problems that may arise."

Shipment of the commodities is expected to begin in June.



Release No. 0447.93
Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206
Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

REINSTATEMENT OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST GRAIN WAREHOUSEMEN OFFERED

WASHINGTON, June 4--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering a 'conditional and temporary' reinstatement to warehousemen in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

The affected warehousemen had been removed from USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation's list of approved warehouses earlier this year for contract violations involving recordkeeping deficiencies and grain inventory shortages.

"The reinstatements are being offered to make price support available to farmers for warehouse-stored grain," said Espy.

Warehousemen affected by the reinstatement will be individually contacted by CCC's contracting officers next week with the details of the reinstatement agreement. According to the terms of the

agreement, CCC will closely monitor the activities of those warehouses, to ensure that past violations will not be repeated.

This reinstatement agreement specifically reserves all rights of the United States against warehouse personnel and companies for violations of federal criminal or civil fraud statutes.

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Program Announcements-

Release No. 0437.93

Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734

Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, June 1--Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randy Weber today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	6.75 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	6.06 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	6.03 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	3.38 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
\$/Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$2.03	\$0.48
--for medium grain:	\$1.84	\$0.48
--for short grain:	\$1.84	\$0.49

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made June 8 at 3 p.m. EDT.

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Release No. 0440.93

Janise Zygmunt (202) 720-6734

Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, June 3--Bruce R. Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. June 10. The user marketing certificate payment rates announced today are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 4 through midnight Thursday, June 10.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 86 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 1.25 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	44.95 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	86
II.	USNE Price	59.88 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-58.63</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	1.25 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	58.63
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>- 13.68</u>
Calculated AWP	44.95
Further AWP adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	44.95 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	58.63
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>- 53.89</u>
	4.74
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>- 3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT.....	0.79 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

The USNE current price has exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is 1.20 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Current	
				Current Minus NE Current	User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
			cents per pound	
1	May 13, 1993	64.25	60.74	3.51	2.26
2	May 20, 1993	63.60	60.22	3.38	2.13
3	May 28, 1993	62.95	59.78	3.17	1.92
4	June 3, 1993	62.19	59.74	2.45	1.20

1/ USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

If the USNE forward price exceeds the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP does not exceed 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period, a forward user marketing certificate will be issued. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for cotton contracted by exporters for delivery after Sept. 30, 1993. The USNE forward price has not exceeded the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks; therefore, the forward user marketing certificate payment rate is zero. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For Friday through Thursday Period Ending		USNE Forward Price	NE Forward Price cents per pound	USNE	Forward
					Forward Minus NE Forward	User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	May	13, 1993	62.40	60.76	1.64	0.39
2	May	20, 1993	60.80	59.51	1.29	0.04
3	May	28, 1993	60.00	58.85	1.15	0 2/
4	June	3, 1993	59.88	58.63	1.25	0 2/

1/ USNE forward price minus NE forward price minus 1.25 cents.

2/ USNE forward price must exceed NE forward price by 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks before a forward certificate payment is applicable.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rates will be announced on Thursday, June 10.



Media Advisory-

Release No. 0445.93
Diane Decker (202) 219-0504
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

NEW DATES FOR THE COTTON AND WOOL UPDATE

WASHINGTON, June 4--The Cotton and Wool Update, scheduled for release the first week of July, August, October, and November by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, will be issued the day after USDA's Crop Production report and the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates.

The shift will allow analysts to incorporate new supply and use data from the two reports. The new dates for the Cotton and Wool Update are July 13, August 12, October 13, and November 10.



